

powder, such as zinc stearate, that fixes itself to any adhesive at the edge and renders it non-tacky (the Examiner refers to the background section of Laurent). The Examiner also argues that zinc stearate inherently has a high melting point of 100° C or higher and water absorption of 5 percent or lower, referring to column 1, lines 30-38.

The Examiner concedes that Laurent does not expressly teach the use of zinc stearate in conjunction with optical film laminates. However, the Examiner argues that applying Laurent's teachings to optical film laminates would be within the ordinary skill in the optical laminate art.

In the alternative, the Examiner cites JP '628 as allegedly teaching that excellent non-tacky layer ends of an optical film laminate can be obtained by providing non-adhesive powder to the edge of the adhesion layer. The Examiner again concedes that JP '628 does not expressly state the specific type of optical film. However, the Examiner argues that it is within the ordinary skill in the art to apply the teachings of JP '628 to any suitable optical laminate.

The Examiner concludes that in the absence of unexpected results, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply a non-tacky powder, such as the zinc stearate, to the edge surfaces of a pressure-sensitive adhesive laminate of optical films, motivated by the desire to render the edge non-tacky.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Applicant's following comments focus on the patentability of independent claim 1, since if claim 1 is allowed its dependent claims should be allowed as well.

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Applicant's specification makes it clear that the optical film laminate according to the present invention is characterized by non-tacky powders having a specific gravity of 4.0 or lower being adhered to edge surfaces of the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer.

The specification describes that when the powders have a specific gravity (d) of 4.0 or lower, high efficiency is attained in the application thereof by spraying with air and in the removal of excess of powders by air blowing. At the bottom of page 5, zinc stearate (which the Examiner refers to in the Laurent reference) is disclosed as an example of the non-tacky powders, among others.

The Examiner admits that the Laurent patent does not describe use of non-tacky powders in an optical film laminate as presently claimed. Laurent fails to disclose or suggest the use of non-tacky powders having the particular specific gravity value claimed in the present invention, much less appreciate that particular advantages could be obtained upon the use of such a material. In this regard, in Example 1 of the present application, Sample 3 which had a specific gravity outside the range of the invention, was poor in its air blowing suitability. This evidence demonstrates that unexpected results are obtained upon use of particular non-tacky powders having the specific gravity value as claimed. ?

Moreover, JP '628 similarly fails to teach or suggest that non-tacky powders having the particular specific gravity property as claimed would result in or achieve the air blowing advantages described in the specification.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

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In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge any additional fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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